

**REMARKS**

In response to the Election/Restriction Requirement mailed September 18, 2008, Applicants responds as follows:

The Examiner requires a five-way restriction on pending claims 1-16. The Examiner also requires election of a single specie from one of the following groups.

Group I, claims 1-14, drawn to a sulfonamide compound. Group I is alleged to contain multiple species of sulfonamide compounds.

Group II, claims 1-14, drawn to a process of manufacturing sulfonamide compounds. Group II is alleged to contain multiple species of various sulfonamide compounds.

Group III, claims 1-14, drawn to method of using sulfonamide compounds for manufacturing a medicament for inhibiting HCV activity in a mammal infected with HCV or co-infected with HIV and HCV. Group III is alleged to contain multiple species of the sulfonamide compounds, and a method of using the sulfonamide compounds for HCV infection HCV and a method of using the sulfonamide compounds for HIV and HCV co-infection.

Group IV, claims 1-14, drawn to method of using sulfonamide compounds for treating HCV infection. Group IV is alleged to contain multiple species of various sulfonamide compounds.

Group V, claims 15-16, drawn to combination of a sulfonamide compound with another anti-HCV or anti-HIV agent.

In response to the Restriction requirement, Applicants elect without traverse Group I, claim 12, to proceed with examination, where claim 12 has been amended. Claims 1-11 and 13-16 have been cancelled without prejudice. The Examiner requires a five-way restriction on pending claims 1-16. The Examiner also requires election of a single specie from one of the following groups.

Group I, claims 1-14, drawn to a sulfonamide compound. Group I is alleged to contain multiple species of sulfonamide compounds.

Group II, claims 1-14, drawn to a process of manufacturing sulfonamide compounds. Group II is alleged to contain multiple species of various sulfonamide compounds.

Group III, claims 1-14, drawn to method of using sulfonamide compounds for manufacturing a medicament for inhibiting HCV activity in a mammal infected with HCV or co-infected with HIV and HCV. Group III is alleged to contain multiple species of the sulfonamide compounds, and a method of using the sulfonamide compounds for HCV infection HCV and a method of using the sulfonamide compounds for HIV and HCV co-infection.

Group IV, claims 1-14, drawn to method of using sulfonamide compounds for treating HCV infection. Group IV is alleged to contain multiple species of various sulfonamide compounds.

Group V, claims 15-16, drawn to combination of a sulfonamide compound with another anti-HCV or anti-HIV agent.

In response to the Restriction requirement, Applicants elect without traverse Group I, claim 12, to proceed with examination, where claim 12 has been amended.

Claims 1-11 and 13-16 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 12, as herein amended, remains in the application.

Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation or divisional applications in the future.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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